

Community Literacy Task Group – Roles and Responsibilities

Task group members bring experience from their lives and from the organizations that they represent. To take advantage of this the task group focus should be on strategic thinking about their community and literacy by continually addressing questions such as:

- Where are the literacy gaps and opportunities in our community?
- What can we contribute to a possible solution?
- What is the best thing that we can do for people in our community?

Essentially the work of the task group is about solving problems in the community - figuring out what the problems are, thinking about how they can be addressed, and talking and working together to identify solutions.

The Steward As the task group is not a legal entity, it decides on a steward organization that can receive and manage funds and formally hire the literacy outreach coordinator. The steward organization is a member of the task group and participates in the thinking about how to best support literacy development.

Typically, stewards are local literacy organizations or other community service providers. In some cases, they are libraries, schools, school districts, or post secondary institutions.

Literacy Outreach Coordinator Role

To accomplish the work set out in community literacy plans, local task groups have identified the need for coordination. In response Literacy Outreach Coordinators are hired by their task groups to:

- Develop connections,
- Mobilize resources
- Support community services
- Build relationships and
- Build community resilience

Guiding Principles for Community Literacy Task Groups:

Relationships and collaboration: Communities build and support networks, partnerships and mentoring relationships.

Innovation: Communities value new ways of viewing existing programs, new partnerships and new ideas for programs.

Respect: People are treated with respect and will be encouraged to freely share their ideas. Diversity is welcomed and valued.

Capacity building: Programs and projects promote and sustain lifelong learning for all participants and focus on improving the life chances of children and adults. People feel empowered to act.

Access for all: All community members have the opportunity to be part of the planning process and the programs.

Strength building: Communities respect, build on and enhance past and current practices.

Sustainability: Success grows from long - term, sustained commitment to literacy learning.

Joy: People are involved in friendly and enthusiastic ways, celebrating success from time to time.

From Community Literacy Planning Guide